Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai

1814. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared and decided to build a dedicated rail freight corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai with Rs. 17,700 crores loan from Japan to fund the project;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said corridor project; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the construction of the Dedicated Freight Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi with Japanese funding. The funding for Phase-I from Vadodara to Rewari is estimated at Rs.17,700 Crores.

(b) Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project envisages a 1483 Kilometers, double line, electrified railway track from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi. The Corridor will be suitable for running of larger and heavier trains to cater mainly to the container transport requirements to and from the existing and emerging ports in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) Subsequent to the Government approval, an Engineering Services Loan Agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and process for engagement of Engineering Services Consultants has been initiated.

Introduction of more Duranto trains

1815. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is shunting Rajdhani trains and introducing more Duranto trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other routes on which Duranto trains are going to be introduced in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to do away with Rajdhani Express.

(c) 5 pairs of Duronto trains have been introduced. Duronto trains on the following routes are to be introduced during the year 2009-10:

1. Delhi (Nizamuddin) - Secunderabad
2. Ernakulam - Delhi (Nizamuddin)
3. New Delhi - Jammu Tawi
4. Mumbai - Ahmedabad (AC)
5. Bhubaneswar – Delhi